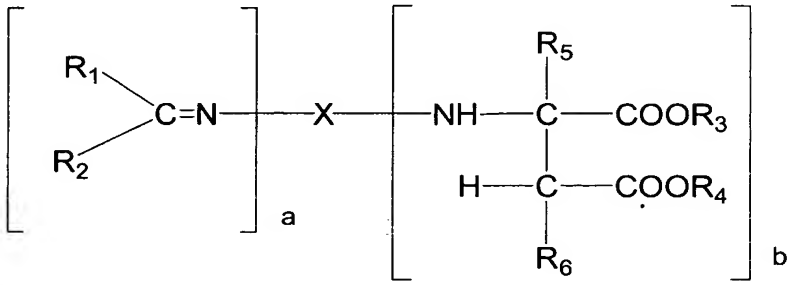
This listing of claims will replace all prior listings:

1. (Currently Amended) An aspartate of the formula:



where

X represents an m-valent ~~organic residue~~ hydrocarbon group obtained by removing the primary amino group or groups from a di- or polyamine containing primary amino group and having a number average molecular weight of 60 to 6000, and which may contain further functional groups that either are reactive with isocyanate groups or are inert to isocyanate groups at temperatures of up to 100°C,

R_5 and R_6 ~~may be~~ are identical or different and represent hydrogen or organic groups which are inert towards isocyanate groups at a temperature of 100°C or less,

R_3 and R_4 ~~may be~~ are identical or different and represent organic groups which are inert towards isocyanate groups at a temperature of 100°C or less,

R_1 and R_2 ~~may be~~ are the same or different and represent moieties selected from the group consisting of i) C_1 to C_8 alkyl groups, ii) C_6 to C_{10} aryl groups, which may be substituted with up to three alkyl groups having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, iii) C_6 to C_{12} cycloalkyl groups, which may be substituted with up to three alkyl groups having from 1 to 3 carbon

atoms and iv) R_1 and R_2 together form a six-membered cycloalkyl group, with said cycloalkyl group being substituted with from 0 to 3 alkyl groups having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms,

m is an integer from 2 to 6; and

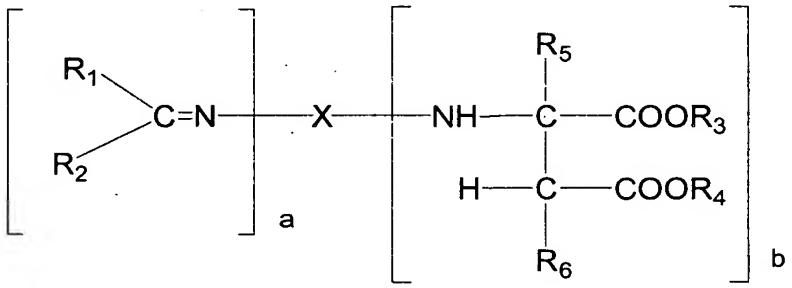
a and b represent integers of from 1 to 5, provided that the sum of a and b is from 2 to 6.

2. (Original) The aspartate of Claim 1, wherein X represents a divalent hydrocarbon group obtained by removing the amino groups from 1-amino-3-aminomethyl-3,5,5-trimethyl-cyclohexane (isophorone diamine or IPDA), bis-(4-aminocyclo-hexyl)-methane, bis-(4-amino-3-methylcyclohexyl)-methane, 1,6-diamino-hexane, 2-methyl pentamethylene diamine or ethylene diamine.

3. (Original) The aspartate of Claim 1, wherein R_5 and R_6 are hydrogen.

4. (Original) The aspartate of Claim 1, wherein R_3 and R_4 are each alkyl groups having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms.

5. (Currently amended) A process for preparing an asparatate of the



formula:

where

X represents an m-valent ~~organic residue~~ hydrocarbon group obtained by removing the primary amino group or groups from a di- or polyamine containing primary amino group and having a number average molecular weight of 60 to 6000, and which may contain further

functional groups that either are reactive with isocyanate groups or are inert to isocyanate groups at temperatures of up to 100°C,

R_5 and R_6 ~~may be~~ are identical or different and represent hydrogen or organic groups which are inert towards isocyanate groups at a temperature of 100°C or less,

R_3 and R_4 ~~may be~~ are identical or different and represent organic groups which are inert towards isocyanate groups at a temperature of 100°C or less,

R_1 and R_2 ~~may be~~ are the same or different and represent moieties selected from the group consisting of i) C_1 to C_8 alkyl groups, ii) C_6 to C_{10} aryl groups, which may be substituted with up to three alkyl groups having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, iii) C_6 to C_{12} cycloalkyl groups, which may be substituted with up to three alkyl groups having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms and iv) R_1 and R_2 together form a six-membered cycloalkyl group, with said cycloalkyl group being substituted with from 0 to 3 alkyl groups having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms,

a and b represent integers of from 1 to 5, provided that the sum of a and b is from 2 to 6, comprising

A) reacting at a temperature of 0 to 100°C, in solution or in the absence of a solvent and at an equivalent ratio of primary amino groups in component a) to C=C double bonds in component b) of from about 1.1:1 to about 3.0:1

a) di- or polyamines corresponding to formula (II)

$$X[-NH_2]_m \qquad (II)$$

with

b) compounds corresponding to formula (III)

$R_3OOC-C(R_5)=C(R_6)-COOR_4$ (III)

wherein

X, R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 are as defined above and

m represents an integer of from 2 to 6, and

B) reacting the resultant product with a ketone.

6. (Original) The process of Claim 5, wherein X represents a divalent hydrocarbon group obtained by removing the amino groups from 1-amino-3-aminomethyl-3,5,5-trimethyl-cyclohexane (isophorone diamine or IPDA), bis-(4-aminocyclo-hexyl)-methane, bis-(4-amino-3-methylcyclohexyl)-methane, 1,6-diamino-hexane, 2-methyl pentamethylene diamine or ethylene diamine.

7. (Original) The process of Claim 5, wherein R_5 and R_6 are hydrogen.

8. (Original) The process of Claim 5, wherein R_3 and R_4 are each alkyl groups having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms.

9. (Original) A two-component coating composition which comprises, as binder,

a) a polyisocyanate component and

b) an isocyanate-reactive component containing

b1) the aspartate of Claim 1,

b2) optionally other isocyanate-reactive compounds,

wherein the equivalent ratio of isocyanate groups to isocyanate-reactive groups is from about 0.8:1 to about 2.0:1.

10. (Original) A prepolymer containing urea, urethane, allophanate and/or biuret structures comprising the reaction product of a polyisocyanate with the aspartate of Claim 1.